

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

1:30 PM

City Hall - City Commission Chambers
100 North Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

City Commission Conference Meeting

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

BEN SORENSEN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District IV

HEATHER MORAITIS Commissioner - District I

STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II

ROBERT L. McKINZIE Commissioner - District III

CHRIS LAGERBLOOM, City Manager

DAVID R. SOLOMAN, City Clerk

ALAIN E. BOILEAU, City Attorney

PATRICK REILLY, Interim City Auditor

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Commission Members Present: Commissioner Heather Moraitis, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie (arrived at 1:38 p.m.), Vice Mayor Ben Sorensen and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

Also Present: City Manager Chris Lagerbloom, City Clerk David R. Soloman, City Attorney Alain E. Boileau

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COMMISSION

[22-0433](#)

Communications to the City Commission - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Central City Redevelopment Advisory Board (CCRAB) Meeting APRIL 6, 2022

Communication to the City Commission:

Motion made by Mr. Ulmer, seconded by Mr. Jordan to recommend the City have a public service campaign to discourage people from giving donations to panhandlers. Motion passed unanimously.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, City Attorney Boileau provided an update. There is currently an injunction and a pending case in federal court related to panhandling. The injunction would not bar the proposed campaign, provided it is limited to conveying a message that people refrain from giving money. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman remarked the Strategic Communications Department would be involved with that type of public service campaign and expounded on his viewpoint.

Mayor Trantalis noted possible misinterpretation of a public service campaign regarding panhandling.

Vice Mayor Sorensen commented on encouraging community members to support organizations that address the needs of those requiring assistance. He remarked that a public service message would serve that need and expounded on other ways to communicate that message to the public.

Commissioner Moraitis confirmed this topic was discussed at the District 1 Pre-Agenda Meetings. She concurred on the need to communicate appropriate messaging to the public.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed Assistant City Manager Greg Chavarria is working on a messaging campaign.

***EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD (EAB) MEETING
Thursday, April 21, 2022***

Communication to the City Commission:

The Education Advisory Board appreciates that the Commission has decided to commit additional funds to the Joint Use Parks project at Sunrise Middle School. We respectfully request the Commission consider a review of the list of items that were removed from all projects and find additional funds to make those projects whole. Attached is the original list with revisions noted. The Education Advisory Board does not support further reduction of any projects and strongly suggests the Commission fund these items with additional allocations.

Motion made by Ms. Lockwood, seconded by Ms. Dean, to affirm Ms. Brinkworth's draft formal Communication from the Education Advisory Board to the City Commission members to be delivered prior to the May 3, 2022 Commission meeting. In a roll call vote, the motion passed, with Mr. Relyea in opposition. (11-1)

Mayor Trantalis said this topic relates to an item on tonight's Commission Regular Meeting Agenda. He explained his understanding of costs, budget shortfalls, and the inability to fund certain enhancements from the *Parks Bond*. A Commission decision to support the shortfall would require funding from the General Fund.

Mayor Trantalis recognized EAB Chair Amy Ellowitz. Chair Ellowitz confirmed her availability to provide additional context to this communication.

Mayor Trantalis recognized James LaBrie, 1514 NE 20th Street. Mr. LaBrie confirmed his support of funding the Sunrise Middle School allocation that was removed and expounded on his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's questions, Phil Thornburg, Parks and Recreation Department Director, explained funding needs and options, including funding from the General Fund. Mr. Thornburg remarked on the possibility of reallocating parks bond funds earmarked for other future projects. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman noted schools missing from the EAB backup documentation and discrepancies in the Commission Agenda Memo on tonight's Commission Regular Meeting Agenda, which included funding for Sunrise Middle School agreed upon by the Commission.

City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed that *Parks Bond* funds were previously allocated and explained Staff published the same CAM for Commission discussion to determine if removing some park projects from the *Parks Bond* list would be acceptable. He noted the need for Commission direction regarding use of *Parks Bond* funding allocated for parkland acquisition or to find General Fund dollars for outstanding school park items referenced in the *EAB* correspondence. Further comment and discussion ensued on specific school park project allocations associated with the approximate \$1,000,000 funding shortfall.

Mr. Thornburg noted the *EAB* list is missing page one (1). Initially, over \$10,000,000 in funding was included in the initial Parks Bond for parks on school property. The EAB addressed how to best use that funding with the use of a matrix that led to recommending how to spend that funding, which changed over time. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Moraitis provided her perspective and confirmed the

need to fund everything voters approved in the *Parks Bond*. Further comment and discussion ensued on park space availability in each District.

Commissioner Glassman noted that funding for school parks in the EAB's communication, Rock Island Elementary, Thurgood Marshall, Dillard grades six (6) through twelve (12), and Harbordale Elementary, were not part of the *Parks Bond*.

The Commission agreed to continue this discussion during the Commission Regular Meeting tonight.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [22-0381](#)

Roadway Elevation - A Community Resilience Conversation - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Dr. Nancy Gassman, Assistant Public Works Department Director - Sustainability. Dr. Gassman narrated a presentation entitled *Roadway Elevation Policy Consideration Presentation*.

A copy is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

Dr. Gassman explained that City climate change efforts are about to transition from short-term solutions to future adaptation strategies that need consideration. Those policy decisions moving forward will be some of the most important with fiscal implications for the public and private sectors. This presentation will initiate a policy discussion and consideration of long-term approaches to determining City investments and climate adaptation strategies, including roadway elevation.

Mayor Trantalis commented on roadways with high water.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding raising the elevation of roads and a point of diminishing returns, Dr. Gassman explained road elevation issues relate to varying roadway elevations that require different amounts of investment to raise to 2070 projected sea-rise elevations. There is no one size fits all solution, and it is impossible to elevate certain roadways. There is a need to consider community benefit versus individual property benefit.

Dr. Gassman showed a short video about the efforts of Miami Beach to raise roads and address sea-level rise.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Alec Bogdanoff, Ph.D., Brizaga, Inc. Mr. Bogdanoff discussed the importance of this topic, his work on resiliency issues, and expounded on related details.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' questions, Dr. Gassman explained details of efforts related to seawalls that are a long-term solution versus tidal valve work. Of the one hundred sixty-five (165) miles of waterways in the City, five (5) miles of seawalls are owned by the City, which the City is aggressively working to raise, especially those adjacent to roadways. Dr. Gassman remarked on a prior proposed seawall ordinance mandating that residents raise their private seawall by 2035, which did not receive support to move forward. Broward County is mandating a change to new seawall elevations and will be before the Commission in July - August 2022. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' questions regarding areas experiencing flooding, Dr. Gassman explained the City released the *Stormwater Master Plan* in 2018 that included the designs for the seven (7) most vulnerable neighborhoods. Part of that process was developing a Citywide model to anticipate future conditions. Over the next several years, another set of designs will be developed to address the next seven (7) neighborhoods.

Commissioner Moraitis commented on an area of flooding in District 1, next to the *Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE)*. Alan Dodd, Public Works Department Director, confirmed Staff has been working with *FXE* to have a consultant review and provide recommendations for related infrastructure improvements.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions regarding the next steps and possible pilot projects, Dr. Gassman explained there are no current pilot projects in the CIP, noted related costs and the current roadway repair budget.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's question, Dr. Gassman explained recent efforts on numerous issues along Mola Avenue, which have reduced flooding frequency and intensity.

Commissioner McKinzie discussed updated elevation requirements for new construction and the impact on neighborhood drainage and expounded on related details. Anthony Fajardo, Development Services Department Director (DSD), explained Code amendments were in

response to FEMA changing elevation requirements in different parts of the City based on needs and new data. Engineering efforts from DSD are ongoing in conjunction with the Public Works Department to address related drainage concerns. Mr. Fajardo commented on elevation alternatives that will be brought forward for Commission consideration, including homes on piles or fringe walls with flood vents that allow water to flow through and not be displaced onto neighboring properties. City Staff has established a flood plain review and inspection team to ensure each application meets FEMA floodplain requirements. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question, Dr. Gassman confirmed Staff has applied for state grant funding to move forward with a Citywide vulnerability analysis, which includes roadways. The estimated timeline is ten (10) months, and there will be concurrent research regarding how other municipalities are addressing.

Mayor Trantalis explained the process moving forward, identifying the problem, solution, and funding. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed that the Citywide vulnerability analysis is the first step moving forward.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events and matters of interest.

Commissioner Moraitis commented on *Miami Beckham United, LLC (Inter Miami)* moving forward with its main stadium in Miami and plans to use *Lockhart Park* stadium as its training facility. She discussed the need to refocus on plans for developing and activating the twenty (20) remaining acres at *Lockhart Park*, including a possible skate park and passive park area. Commissioner Moraitis remarked on the need for a Commission decision regarding using the twenty (20) remaining acres in the *Lockhart Park* for exclusive use by City residents.

Commissioner Glassman commented on his viewpoint and the need to address correctly. He noted the need for City Manager Lagerbloom to meet with *Inter Miami* to determine several recommendations for reimagining those twenty (20) acres at *Lockhart Park*, followed by a discussion at a future Conference Meeting Agenda to discuss all possibilities moving forward. Further comment and discussion ensued on the timeline.

Mayor Trantalis said City Manager Lagerbloom indicated he could

present a Commission Agenda item for discussion on this topic at the first Commission Meeting in June 2022.

Commissioner Moraitis reiterated the need to consider District 1 residents' preference for a City park and the need to make a decision.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question regarding the Comprehensive Agreement, City Attorney Alain Boileau said the Commission could decide on a policy in the future, but any formal change would include an addendum to the Comprehensive Agreement agreed to by both parties.

Commissioner Moraitis reiterated the need for a Commission vote on plans for the twenty (20) acres at *Lockhart Park*. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on the importance of addressing resiliency, as discussed earlier by Anthony Fajardo, Development Services Department Director.

Commissioner Glassman commented on the progress of the *Solid Waste Working Group (SWWG)* Meeting. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed an upcoming Commission update.

Commissioner McKinzie remarked on struggles related to garbage pickup services and inquired about contract renewal with the current vendor.

City Manager Lagerbloom explained that the City received official notice from the refuse collection vendor that they will not seek a contract extension when it expires in the late summer. Staff will submit a solicitation in the competitive market. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Manager Lagerbloom noted he would confirm the contract expiration date.

Vice Mayor Sorensen discussed Neighbor Presentations and remarked on moving them from the Regular Meeting Agenda to the Conference Meeting Agenda. He suggested allowing individual resident Neighbor Presentations one (1) time per quarter at a Commission Conference Meeting.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's questions, Vice Mayor Sorensen provided his reasoning, stating a Conference Meeting allows for discussion. Commissioner McKinzie explained his understanding of

Neighbor Presentations.

Commissioner Moraitis explained her viewpoint and the need for Neighbor Presentations to remain on Regular Meeting Agendas.

Commissioner Glassman confirmed favoring Neighborhood Presentations at Conference Meetings and explained his reasoning. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding having Neighbor Presentations at both Regular and Conference Meetings. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Clerk David Soloman explained the Neighbor Presentation guidelines. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Attorney Alain Boileau explained Neighbor Presentations are not a legal requirement, noted flexibility on guidelines and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question regarding needing to be a City resident to have a Neighbor Presentation, City Attorney Boileau confirmed the ability to set that restriction. There is a requirement to allow the general public to speak on any Agenda item on which the Commission will vote. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Manager Lagerbloom explained his understanding of Commission direction. The opportunity to present a Neighbor Presentation once per quarter, five (5) Fort Lauderdale residents per meeting, alternating between Conference and Regular Meetings. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Moraitis noted the need to ensure that communicating this to residents would not imply their opportunity to speak is being taken away. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding details related to the process.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

City Manager Lagerbloom read correspondence related to the 1016 Waverly Road property and the *U.S. National Park Service* officially listing that property in the *National Register of Historic Places* on April 20, 2022.

Commissioner Glassman expounded on his viewpoint and congratulated everyone involved in writing the application. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding historical designation criteria, the process,

and related details.

RECESS

Vice Mayor Sorensen recessed the Commission at 3:26 p.m. to hold the Community Redevelopment Agency Meeting.

RECONVENE

Mayor Trantalis reconvened the Conference Meeting at 3:31 p.m.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS (cont.)

Mayor Trantalis discussed loud vehicle engine noise and music from vehicles on Las Olas Boulevard and other areas. He remarked on efforts to address at the state level, giving the City the authority to enforce noise levels on the street.

City Attorney Boileau provided an update. Florida House Bill 1435 is awaiting Governor Ron DeSantis' signature, addresses loud music emanating from a vehicle, and following his signature, the City can enforce. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Attorney Boileau explained measurement challenges faced by Police Officers for calculating noise levels from vehicle exhaust engines, which are set by Florida statute. He explained the difficulty Police Officers face when gauging whether a vehicle is illegally modified and above the decibel levels. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis expounded on his viewpoint and the need to address noise levels.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie, City Attorney Boileau explained the state HB 1435 only deals with loud music emanating from vehicles.

Mayor Trantalis discussed the upcoming Broward County Commission Meeting on Thursday, May 5, 2022, regarding the proposed Joint Government Campus. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the position of the City and available alternatives.

Commissioner Glassman commented on Commission Member interaction and etiquette. He explained related details and discussed his viewpoint regarding the Commission taking action. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner McKinzie remarked that Commission Members should conduct themselves professionally. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding *Robert's Rules of Order*, appropriate levels of discourse, and options moving forward.

Vice Mayor Sorensen requested Commission feedback regarding a Walk-On Agenda item at tonight's Regular Meeting to address the topic of women having the right to choose regarding reproductive rights.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Vice Mayor Sorensen commented on his perspective regarding recent state legislation on this subject. City Attorney Boileau commented on efforts to bring forth a resolution for Commission consideration by the next Commission Regular Meeting. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding options moving forward.

ADJOURN

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.